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**Linda McCulloch**  
Superintendent

February 2005

Dear Colleague:

"Hats Off to Reading" is the 2005 February I Love to Read Month theme. February 14 is designated as "I Love to Read Day" in Montana.

I encourage you and your staff to plan activities that promote reading for enjoyment as well as reading for information. Plan a day, a week or a month in which all content areas are integrated with reading, writing and language activities.

A calendar of suggested activities is included to help your school celebrate February as I Love to Read Month. Please make a copy to distribute to your staff and students. Several resources for reading activities and celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday, March 2, can found at the NEA Web site, <http://www.nea.org/readacross/index.html>. In addition, the following sites contain some great suggestions, especially for celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday.

[http://www.hubbardscupboard.org/dr\\_\\_seuss.html](http://www.hubbardscupboard.org/dr__seuss.html)  
<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/seuss.html>

The greatest gift we can give our students is the belief that reading is worthwhile. Ideally, that belief stems from a personal need for experiences with books and also from the knowledge that books are a valuable source of information. The well-rounded reader finds both purposes important. Surrounding students with a rich variety of literature, plus experiences that make a story come alive and draw the student into a book, can provide the basis for a genuine love of reading.

Reading aloud from a selection of literature is an excellent way to introduce a theme, a concept, or new content materials to students. Read aloud to students every day, no matter how old they are.

Join with us in celebrating the "Hats Off to Reading" theme for I Love To Read Month. Help students foster the belief that reading is worthwhile. Please share with us some of the ways in which you celebrate reading. Your comments on the "Hats Off to Reading" activities will be appreciated.

A special thank you to MEA-MFT for printing the 2005 Love to Read materials.

Happy reading,

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Attachments

*"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."*

## LOVE TO READ 2005 IDEAS

### **READ ALOUD**

Read aloud to the class every day--**no matter how old the students are!** Read students brief but complete stories as often as possible. Provide variety such as high interest, humor, special interest, and family stories. **Be a role model.** Let students see you read.

### **FOOD FEST**

Plan a "food fest" for the classroom. Each student shares a poem that uses food as a theme.

### **ON BEYOND NORMAL THINGS TO EAT ([nea.org/readacross/index.html](http://nea.org/readacross/index.html))**

Whatever do you feed an Umbus? Or a flock of Bipo-no-Bungus? A Bloog? A Guff? Gee, this is tough! Seuss creatures most likely eat unusual things, like the Foon from *If I Ran the Circus*, "who eats sizzling hot pebbles that fall off the moon!" Ask young readers to create a daily menu (complete with recipes and serving instructions) for the many fuzzy, furry, feathered, fantastic folk found in more than a few Seuss favorites.

### **READ ALONG**

Celebrate with song by holding a read-along, sing-along. Use an overhead to project the words of old favorites and new songs. Students can assist in the preparation by illustrating the transparencies.

### **KID'S ROOM LIBRARY**

Develop a "Kid's Room Library"--made, run, and maintained by students.

### **NAME A ROOM**

For one day, name each room in the school after a book character or fantasy location.

### **MISSING TEACHER**

Students begin with a title provided by the teachers, for example, "The Day All Teachers Were Missing." One class begins the story and then passes it along until all the classrooms have added to it. The last class writes the conclusion. Once the story is complete, the principal reads it to the student body. Each student receives a printed copy of the story to commemorate the event.

### **READING THE TICKET DAY** (Tammy Lacey, Principal, Fairfield Public Schools)

Whenever teachers see students reading when their work is done, they give the student a ticket. Students can put their names on the tickets and deposit them in the jar by the office. The tickets are drawn and winners are given a prize.

### **READ WITH STYLE DAY**

Students and teachers dress up nice and/or fancy.

### **ACADEMY AWARDS FOR BOOK**

Students nominate their favorite book for an Academy Award. They complete a sheet that details their nominations that are displayed in the cafeteria during the week. The best nominations are highlighted at an Academy Awards ceremony.

### **BOOK CARNIVAL**

Celebrate books and reading with a book carnival. Ask students to keep an eye out for very large (appliance size) corrugated boxes that can be transformed into carnival booths. Students invent carnival-like games to be held in each booth for a student book fair. Each game must be based on a book read independently sometime during the school year or read as a class.

Before the carnival, ask students to fill out a sheet describing their games and how the plot, characters and/or theme of their books relate to their games. A few days before the carnival have students bring their projects to class. This will give them an opportunity to show their games to classmates, try playing the games, and work out any kinks there may be. Students then set up and paint the cardboard boxes for carnival booths. You may wish to include balloons, music and popcorn with the carnival. Other classes, parents and administrators can be invited to try their luck with the games and join in the fun.

# February—I Love to Read Month—2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>Hats Off to Reading!</h1> 		<b>1</b> <b>Goal Setters</b> Set reading goals for Love to Read Month	<b>2</b> <b>Groundhog Day</b> Who is Punxsutawney Phil? <b>Be a Winner READ!!</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Hats Off to Reading</b> Make a list of books and stories about hats. Example: Cat In The Hat	<b>4</b> <b>Make a Hats Off to Reading</b> bulletin board for your classroom.	<b>5</b> <b>Unplug Day</b> Pull the plug on the TV and computer. <b>Read!</b>
<b>6</b> <b>Be a Winner—READ!</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Community Helpers</b> Read stories about community members. Design hats for them. Example: firefighter, chef, etc.	<b>8</b> <b>Reading Murals</b> Paint a mural about reading in your classroom or hallway.	<b>9</b> <b>Readable Shirt Day</b> Everyone wears clothing that can be read.	<b>10</b> <b>Royal Reader</b> Invite someone such as the mayor, principal, superintendent or basketball team to read. Roll out a red carpet, a throne, a red velvet cape or a jeweled crown.	<b>11</b> <b>Book Swap</b> Bring books to class to exchange with other classmates. Wear a hat!	<b>12</b> <b>Library Day</b> Visit the library with your family today.
<b>13</b> <b>Digest a Good Book</b> There is nothing more delicious than a good book. <b>READ!</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Wear Red Day</b> Make hearts that start, "I love to read because ..." Give a prize.	<b>15</b> <b>Hat Haiku</b> Compose haiku poems about hats.	<b>16</b> <b>Jeans Day</b> Wear jeans today. <b>READ!</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Hot Reads</b> Student wearing the CAT's hat introduces themselves and their "Hot Reads" and tells about their book.	<b>18</b> <b>Read-Nic</b> Spread a picnic blanket on the floor. Cover it with books about foods. Include healthy snacks.	<b>19</b> <b>Special Reading Day</b> Make a special reading area at home just to use for reading during the month of February.
<b>20</b> <b>SMILE!! HAVE A GOOD BOOK DAY!</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Presidents</b> Which presidents were born in February? Read about presidents. Make a president's hat. Example: Lincoln's stovepipe hat.	<b>22</b> <b>Veg Out!</b> with a good book. Bring a can of food to donate to a worthy cause or food bank.	<b>23</b> <b>Hat Day</b> Wear crazy hats today. Write a story or draw a picture about your hat.	<b>24</b> <b>Reader's Theatre</b> Turn familiar stories into theatre reader's scripts. Perform for other classes.	<b>25</b> <b>Fox In Socks Day</b> Wear socks on your hands and feet.	<b>26</b> <b>Read More About It Day</b> Choose a topic and read more about it.
<b>27</b> <b>READ!</b> Read for 20 minutes every day.	<b>28</b> <b>Dr. Seuss March 2</b> Plan a Dr. Seuss Big Birthday Bash.	<b>Celebrate Dr. Seuss' 100th Birthday</b> <b>Read Every Day</b> <a href="http://www.nea.org/readacross">www.nea.org/readacross</a> <a href="http://www.reading.org">www.reading.org</a> <a href="http://www.opi.mt.gov">www.opi.mt.gov</a>		<div> <b>Linda McCulloch, Superintendent</b> Montana Office of Public Instruction PO Box 202501 Helena, Montana 59620-2501 <a href="http://www.opi.mt.gov">www.opi.mt.gov</a></div>		For additional information contact:  June Atkins Literacy Specialist (406) 444-3664 Fax (406) 444-1373 <a href="mailto:jatkins@mt.gov">jatkins@mt.gov</a>
<div>Be a school of readers all year long. <b>Hats Off to Readers!</b></div>						